

REMARKS

Each claim is directed to a medical needle assembly. Independent claim 49 recites that the medical needle assembly comprises a first medical needle apparatus, a second medical needle apparatus and an obturator device. Examples of support for the recitation of the obturator device include FIGS. 63-74 and the associated description at page 29, line 10 to page 30, line 21 and FIGS. 79-90 and the associated description at page 31, line 1 to page 32, line 21. Examples of support for the recitation of a medical needle assembly also comprising a first medical needle apparatus and a second medical needle apparatus include page 11, lines 22-33 with reference to FIGS. 1-4; page 12, line 1 to page 19, line 22 with reference to FIGS. 1-11; at page 20, line 30 to page 23, line 13 with reference to FIGS. 16-27; at page 23, line 14 to page 25, line 20 with reference to FIGS. 28-33; and at page 26, line 30 to page 27, line 24 with reference to FIGS. 44-52.

Independent claims 28 and 45 recite "a first medical needle apparatus" and "a second device having a reset surface configured to engage the first medical needle apparatus to allow reuse of the first shield in a retracted position." At least the above text and drawings identified with respect to support for independent claim 49 also provide support for the recited elements in independent claims 28 and 45. Examples of additional support include FIGS 12-15 and the associate description at page 19, line 23 to page 20, line 29; FIGS. 36-41 and the associate description at page 25, line 21 to page 26, line 9; and FIGS. 59-60 and the associate description at page 28, lines 21-28.

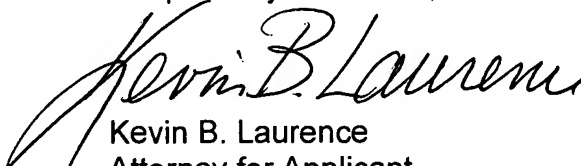
As indicated above, independent claims 28 and 45 recites that the second device has "a reset surface configured to engage the first medical needle apparatus to allow

reuse of the first shield in a retracted position. It should be understood that the terms "reset surface" and "reset geometry" are utilized interchangeably in the Present Application to refer to a feature of a second device which is configured to engage the first medical needle apparatus to allow reuse of the first shield in a retracted position. Dependent claims 44 and 48 recite that the reset surface of the second device "is a reset geometry which unlocks a reset element of the first medical needle apparatus." Accordingly, these dependent claims present a further limitation to the independent claims by reciting the "reset element" of the first medical needle apparatus.

In summary, the new independent claims are supported at least by the drawings and text of the Present Application which are specifically discussed above. Also, the claims recite key improvements over the prior art which are achieved by several features. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims are patentable in their present form, and a prompt notice of allowance for this case is respectfully requested. As mentioned above, if the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of this application, please contact the undersigned attorney.

DATED this 25TH day of MAY 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin B. Laurence
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,219

STOEL RIVES LLP
One Utah Center
201 South Main Street, Suite 1100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
Telephone: (801) 578-6932
Facsimile: (801) 578-6999